

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.



By:

*Lynn Spina*

Date:

*July 28, 2005*  
MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re Patent Application of:  
**Minoru Mizutani**

Conf. No.: **3476**

Appln. No.: **10/648,020**

Filing Date: **August 26, 2003**

Title: **IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS**

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Group Art Unit: **2853**

Examiner: **Lam S. Nguyen**

Attorney Docket No.: **9448-145US (GO287US)**

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

This correspondence is in response to an Office Action mailed June 21, 2005 setting forth a written restriction requirement. This response is being timely filed in view of a Petition for Extension of Time (one month, to and including August 21, 2005) under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), filed herewith.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the application contains claims directed to three patentably distinct species of the claimed invention, including Species I relating to an image forming apparatus as recited in claim 1; Species II relating to an image forming apparatus as recited in claim 2; and Species III relating to an image forming apparatus as recited in claim 19. The Examiner required election of a single species for prosecution on the merits and identification of the claims reading upon the elected species.

Applicant elects Species I for examination, and identifies claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17 as reading thereon. The election is made without traverse.

Application No. 10/648,020

Reply to Office Action of June 21, 2005

Prompt examination and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MINORU MIZUTANI

7/28/05  
(Date)

By:

  
MARTIN G. BELISARIO

Reg No  
48955 for

Registration No. 32,886

**AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP**

One Commerce Square

2005 Market Street, Suite 2200

Philadelphia, PA 19103-7013

Telephone: 215-965-1200

**Direct Dial: 215-965-1303**

Facsimile: 215-965-1210

E-Mail: mbelisario@akingump.com

MGB/KBG